

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /053 W

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R 061415Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7338

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL CMADRAS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3174

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: J.P. NARAYAN LEADS MARCH ON PARLIAMENT

REF: NEW DELHI 2756

1. J.P. NARAYAN'S LONG ANTICIPATED MARCH ON PARLIAMENT, MARCH 6, MUSTERED BY OUR COUNT BETWEEN 1000,000 AND 200,00 PEOPLE -- FAR LESS THAN THE ONE MILLION TARGET BUT LARGE ENOUGH TO BE IMPRESSIVE BY DELHI STANDARDS. THE TURNOUT WAS LIMITED BY MEASURES REPORTEDLY TAKEN BY THE NEIGHBORING HARAYANA AND UTTAR PRADESH STATE GOVERNMENTS AND BY THE GOI TO INHIBIT ROAD AND RAIL TRANSPORTATION INTO DELHI ON MARCH 5 AND 6.

2. THE MARCH ITSELF WAS PEACEFUL. BUSINESS LIFE IN THE CAPITAL CONTINUED AS USUAL, DESPITE THE DEMONSTRATORS' CALL FOR THE CESSATION OF ALL BUT ESSENTIAL SERVICES. TEN THOUSAND CENTRAL DELHI POLICEMEN AS WELL AS CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE AND BORDER SECUTIRY FORCE UNITS LINED THE STREETS ALONG THE 10 KM. ROUTE OF MARCH BETWEEN RED FORT IN OLD DELHI AND THE PARLIAMENT IN NEW DELHI. PEOPLE ALONG THE ROUTE CHEERED ENTHUSIASTICALLY WHEN THE AGING NARAYAN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEATED ON A BARLANDED CHAIR FIXED TO THE TOP OF A JEEP, PASSED

BY.

3. THE LARGELY STUDENT AND MIDDLE-CLASS URBAN HINDU REPRESENTATION IN THE CROWD REFLECTED THE ORGANIZING HAND OF THE JANA SANGH PARTY. SEVERAL HUNDRED SIKH ELDERS ARMED WITH SPEARS, SWORDS, HALBERDS AND BOWS LENT A MOST DRAMATIC AND COLORFUL FLAVOR TO THE MARCH. CONTINGENTS FROM MOST STATES IN INDIA PARTICIPATED WITH THE LARGEST GROUPS FROM THE HINDI-SPEAKING AREAS OF NORTH INDIA.

3. NARAYAN ALONG WITH LEADERS OF NON-CPI OPPOSITION PARTY

PRESENTED A CHARTER OF DEMANDS TO THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT FOLLOWING THE MARCH. THE CHARTER (BEING POUCHED TO NEA/INS) CALLS FOR ELECTIONS IN GUJARAT AND BIHAR, EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC AS WELL AS ELECTORAL REFORMS, THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE GOI'S EMERGENCY POWERS AND THE ERADICATION OF POLITICAL CORRUPTION. THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO REFERENCE TO FOREIGN POLICY IN THE CHARTER.
SAXBE

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